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Letter from Executive Board

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Letter from Executive Board

THE MODERN AMERICAN

Letter from the Executive Board

Since President Barack Obama was sworn into office a little over a year ago, “change” is one of many words to describe the current political climate. Is America more divided after the tortuous healthcare wrangle? Or is America more effusively expressing its diverse political views? Whether it is the conspicuous rise of the Birther Movement or outraged citizens storming the Capitol armed with epithets, it is nearly impossible to tell which conditions make up today’s political landscape other than just plain mad. Change is hard, and apparently, change is angry.

That is not to say that Americans do not have good reason to be angry. Congress seems to be unable to solve urgent problems as individuals, communities, and other levels of government suffer from joblessness, rising costs, and fewer resources. Anger is only at the surface of America’s deep fear and anxiety over an uncertain future.

But this is change in its rawest form—the good, the bad, and the ugly. This spring volume features contributions on healthcare reform’s underbelly and potential homeownership opportunity roll-backs; however, it also features essays on LGBT advocates’ success in joining the Supreme Court bar, preparation of a new generation of problem-solving lawyers, and creative solutions that bring attention to the broken criminal justice system. If the current political landscape demonstrates any lesson, it is that change does not equate progress. Sometimes even, as Bridgette Baldwin convincingly argues about welfare stigmatization, things can be more of the same. It depends from which vantage point one looks.

The Modern American is “modernizing” during our sixth year, yet our commitment to offering robust dialogue on diverse issues remains as firm as ever. Evocative dialogue can contain a lot of value—it can be more than irate slurs hurled at elected officials. Real decisions affect real people in real ways which is essential to acknowledge in a discussion about political change. Still, we must be fair-minded as we engage with one another.

The Modern American continues to bring incisiveness out from political storms on pressing issues within this volume and those to come. We encourage *The Modern American* readers to help us in our mission to provide a constructive platform for these conversations by offering us feedback during our Strategic Plan comment period (open until May 31). More information about the Strategic Plan can be found on the publication back cover. Here, at *The Modern American*, we believe, “Yes, we still can.”

Sincerely Yours,

The Executive Board
The Modern American

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